

## SECTION 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

In accordance with Sections 15125 and 15126(a) to (c) of the State CEQA Guidelines, this Section of the EIR provides analysis of impacts for those environmental topics where it was determined that the Proposed Project could result in “potentially significant impacts,” as identified in the Initial Study included in Appendix A. Each topical section includes the following information: description of the existing setting; identification of methods used for the analysis presented in the section; identification of thresholds of significance; analysis of potential project effects and significant impacts; identification of a mitigation program, if required, to reduce the impacts; and level of significance after mitigation.

Section 15064.7 of the State CEQA Guidelines addresses thresholds of significance and encourages each public agency to develop thresholds of significance through a public review process. Subsequently, these thresholds must be published and adopted by agency ordinance, code, or regulation. The City of Long Beach has not formally adopted thresholds of significance; however, the City (Environmental Planning, Engineering, and Airport Bureau) has suggested thresholds that have been derived from several sources, including previous EIRs prepared by the City, the City General Plan, State CEQA Guidelines Checklist, and adopted thresholds from other agencies (such as the Federal Aviation Administration and the South Coast Air Quality Management District). The suggested thresholds of significance are used to evaluate the level of impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

For each topical issue, the impact analysis is formatted to analyze the potential impacts for the Proposed Project related to each threshold of significance. With respect to the Proposed Project, the impact analysis is further broken down into subheadings “Construction-Related Impacts” and “Project-Related Impacts.” Construction-related impacts are impacts that have been identified with respect to construction activities, including grading, site preparation work, construction traffic, etc. Project-related impacts are impacts that have been identified to occur with project implementation as it relates to the ongoing use of the terminal area improvements. The impact analysis also includes a subheading “Additional Effects Related to Optimized Flights.” The Optimized Flights scenario, as discussed in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 is not a component of the Proposed Project and is not causally related to the Proposed Project but is addressed in this EIR for information purposes. Lastly, as described in Section 1.6, the impact analysis includes analysis of the three alternatives (No Project and two alternatives with less intense development).

The mitigation program identified to reduce potential project impacts consists of Standard Conditions and Requirements and mitigation measures. The components of the mitigation program are described below; the mitigation program is presented in Section 6 of this EIR.

- **Project Design Features** – Project Design Features (PDFs) are specific design elements proposed by the project applicant and incorporated into the project to prevent the occurrence of, or reduce the significance of, potential environmental effects. Because PDFs have been incorporated into the project, they do not constitute mitigation measures as defined by CEQA. However, PDFs are identified in the mitigation section for each topical issue to ensure that they are included in the mitigation monitoring program to be developed for, and implemented as a part of, the proposed project.

- **Standard Conditions and Requirements** – Standard conditions and requirements are based on local, state, or federal regulations or laws that are frequently required independently of CEQA review. They also serve to offset or prevent specific impacts. Typical standard conditions and requirements include compliance with the provisions of the Uniform Building Code, South Coast Air Quality Management District Rules, local agency fee programs, etc. Additional conditions may be imposed on the project by government agencies during the approval process, as appropriate.
- **Mitigation Measures** – Where a potentially significant environmental effect has been identified and is not reduced to a level considered less than significant through the application of PDFs and standard conditions and requirements, project-specific mitigation measures have been recommended.

The topical sections that follow incorporate the approaches described above.